

its distribution, but was the attraction to the entomologist to place his MV light here and so draw *oblonga* from its habitat among the grasses at the edge of the tidal estuary. The Frampton on Severn isolated reed bed of 1½ acres is a good spot for Wainscotes and carries populations of *Leucania straminea* Treit., *Nonagria dissoluta* Treit. and *Chilodes maritima* Tausch.

The author is not right about Magor Reserve being the only locality to the west of Offa's Dyke for the Water Ermine (*Spilosoma urticae* Esp.). I took it commonly in Borth Bog on June 18th 1960. Not in the southern sweet gale section known for *Eurgrappe subrosea* Stephens, but in the northern part which is dense reed bed. *Panaxia dominula* Linn. occurs at the same time, *Mythimna turca* Linn. a few weeks later. Incidentally, I noted in my diary for that date "This marsh may well contain rarities". Little did I know that if, instead of putting an MV light among the reeds I had examined the sweet gale with a Tilly lamp, I might have spotted the first *subrosea* larvae seen for a hundred years. — R. P. DEMUTH, Watercombe House, Oakridge, Glos. GL6 7PN.

IMMIGRANT LEPIDOPTERA IN 1980 IN SOUTH WESTMORLAND AND NORTH LANCASHIRE. — The first sign of migrants here was 8th June, when in showery weather two *Cynthia cardui* L. and several *Autographa gamma* L. appeared in my garden, and the following morning the number of *gamma* at m.v.l. had escalated to 22 from the past week's nightly average of three. On 10th June, five *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. suddenly appeared in the trap, and the same night four *Udea ferrugalis* Hbn. entered Mr. C. Scott's moth trap at Arnside, two miles away. A single *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. on the 14th, followed by a reliable report of a *Colias croceus* Geoff. seen at Sunderland Point near Lancaster that week, and the small spate of migrants appeared to have passed by. The indications of a *cardui* year were fulfilled in August and September when, despite bad weather, it was far more plentiful than for many years past. On 31st August Mr. John Wilson, warden of the R.S.P.B. Reserve at Leighton Moss, Silverdale, counted 138 on the Reserve, which were not seen to be moving in any particular direction. That some of the species had bred in the district was proved by the finding of pupae on Arnside Knott in September, by a Research student working for the National Trust.

Mr. W. Kydd informed me of the sighting of three *C. croceus* near Ulverston, N. Cumbria in late August. This prompted us to look out for the species in this district, and sure enough on 1st September, Mr. J. Leedal photographed one at rest on a flower head, on a disused railway embankment in Lancaster, and three more were seen in the same locality on 2nd September and one on the 4th, all by the same observer. On 26th September, Mr. J. Whitehouse boxed a large female *croceus* at rest on a roadside hedge at Hoghton near Blackburn. It is more than twenty years since so many *croceus* were recorded in these parts. *Vanessa atalanta* L. was also fairly

common in September and early October, and on three separate occasions in September, a specimen was found in a light trap at Arnside among the moths.

In 12 years of consistently operating an m.v. light trap here, *Udea ferrugalis* Hbn. has never exceeded six specimens in one year, but this year there were 161. These did not suddenly appear in numbers overnight, and just as quickly pass by as migrants usually do, but slowly built up in numbers from late August until mid-September, and were about until 5th October. I mentioned this to the now late Mr. Arthur Watson, at the Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological & Natural History Society's Annual Exhibition on 25th October, when he informed me that the species was abundant in September on the St. Annes-on-Sea Nature Reserve, where he was warden, and that they were in his opinion locally bred.

I also had more *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. in 1980 than ever before in one year, mostly spread over the whole of September, and totalling 31 compared to an average of six in former years. The 38 *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn., slightly above the average annual total, were spread out in ones and twos in August, September and October, but there was only one *Peridroma saucia* Hbn. this year. On the other hand, a total of 489 *Autographa gamma* L. at light in 1980 was above average. After the Spring movement, *gamma* was almost absent until August, when there were three separate upsurges in numbers and rapid declines in that month. There were two similar fluctuations in September, not paralleled by other species coming in to light. Contrary to our experience during the last few years, *gamma* was scarce here in October. — J. BRIGGS, 5, Deepdale Close, Slackhead, Beetham, Nr. Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7AY.

ON THE RECENT OCCURRENCE IN BRITAIN OF CARYOCOLUM BLANDULELLA TUTT. — At about mid-day on the 20th of August 1978, I netted a small gelechiid on the sandhills that border the Reserve of the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation at Sandwich Bay, Kent. After setting the insect, a rather worn female, it was put on one side for further examination. Recently, I submitted the moth to Mr. E. S. Bradford who, after preparing a slide of the genitalia pronounced it as probably referable to *Caryocolum blandulella* Tutt, and the specimen was later confirmed by Dr. K. Sattler as belonging to this species. The life history of *C. blandulella* is unknown so far as I am aware, and apparently this is the first time since 1891 that the species has been taken in Britain.

*C. blandulella* was first described from Kent by J. W. Tutt in 1887 (in *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 24: 105) on the basis of specimens which he took on the Deal sandhills. Although Meyrick (1928, *Rev. Handbook Br. Lep.*, 635) stated the species had not been recorded from abroad and moreover was only known from Kent, the moth had already been cited from Hampshire by Goss and Fletcher (1900, *Lepidoptera in Victoria County History of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*,